

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 ACDA-12 OMB-01

TRSE-00 FEA-01 INT-05 COME-00 /112 W

-----111713 071233Z /41

R 071003Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6044

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, GE, IZ, YS

SUBJECT: GDR DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS IRAQ AND PDRY

REFS: (A) BERLIN 7554, (B) TEHRAN 9174

1. THE GDR PRESS HAS REPORTED, IN AN EXTREMELY
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SKETCHY MANNER, THE VISIT TO IRAQ AND YEMEN (ADEN)

OF A MILITARY DELEGATION HEADED BY GDR MINISTER

OF DEFENSE AND POLITBURO MEMBER GENERAL HEINZ HOFFMANN.

THE TRIP WAS NOT ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE TO OUR

KNOWLEDGE AND ITS PURPOSES, OTHER THAN THE EXCHANGE

OF VIEWS BETWEEN FRIENDLY STATES, HAVE NOT BEEN

PUBLICIZED. HOFFMANN WAS IN BAGHDAD OCTOBER 16

AND THEN PROCEEDED TO YEMEN WHERE HE STAYED THROUGH THE 21ST, RETURNING TO IRAQ ON OCTOBER 21 ON A STOPOVER.

2. PUBLIC REPORTS OF THE HOFFMANN TRIP HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE ENIGMATIC THAN USUAL. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE TALKS INVOLVED ARMS SALES, WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS TOPIC WAS DISCUSSED IN BOTH BAGHDAD (REF B) AND IN ADEN. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF THE GDR SOUGHT SOME BARTER ARRANGEMENT WITH IRAQ INVOLVING OIL. NO AGREEMENTS ON MILITARY COOPERATION OR SALES WERE ANNOUNCED.

3. HOFFMANN'S SHUTTLE ITINERARY STRIKES US AS A BIT ODD AS HE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN FORMALLY RECEIVED IN BAGHDAD, THEN PROCEEDED TO YEMEN AND LATER RETURNED TO IRAQ. THE TRIP, IN ANY CASE, IS FURTHER INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THE GDR ATTACHES TO RELATIONS WITH THESE TWO MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN08269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770410-0561
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771189/aaaacyrg.tel
Line Count: 82
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: c7ca5a20-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 7554, 77 TEHRAN 9174
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 694190
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS IRAQ AND PDRY
TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, GC, IZ, YS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7ca5a20-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009